

## **Report from the GIZ visit**

By Kiros Habtu & Catherine Pfeifer

Friday February 03, meeting at GIZ SLM with Dr Tesfai Mebrahtu Deputy program Director of the sustainable land management program as well as with Ato Girma Gebrehawariat, head of knowledge management.

We have asked Dr. Tesfai to tell us about the diverse activity of GIZ in term of SLM, what are the success factors of implementation.

In order to identify what is done where, GIZ always starts its works by consulting the concerned community as well as the regional level. There were various GIZ SLM programs that have been implemented in different times. All programs since 2002 are all based on watershed because the government of Ethiopia decided all development interventions to focus towards bio-physical rather than on boundaries. In all project SLM is taken in a broad sense and includes activities such as soil and water conservation, agro-forestry and crop-livestock system.

GIZ works together with KFW (German bank), World Bank, and GEF on globally 92 watershed projects in 3 regions, namely Oromia Tigray and Amhara.

Since 2009 GIZ contributes to the SLMP, a program also implemented with the World Bank and KFW. For this project they work on 35 critical watersheds. These watersheds are about 8500ha, and subdivided into micro-watershed from 200 to 500 ha. in which concrete action is implemented. Micro watersheds are selected based on degradation level and its strategic location within the watershed in terms of downstream impact.

Within the cooperation with KFW, work in 23 other watersheds has started and GIZ provides support to farmers in different thematic areas that have been identified by the community itself. . The major one are soil conservation, tree planting in Amhara rainwater harvesting and constructing dams, bee-keeping in Tigray, safe evacuation of excess rainwater in Oromia

GIZ is part of a task force in which they try to come up with a list of best practices. At current stage the task force is discussing criteria that define a success. Due to this ongoing process, the diverse members of the taskforce including GIZ are a bit reluctant in sharing their own best practices. Nonetheless, we have received the list of activities done by GIZ.

We also had the chance to talk to Ato Girma, the new head of knowledge management. He is working on a web-based spatially explicit planning and monitoring and evaluation tool. This tool allows planners to compute all the input needed (labor, material, and costs) on a standard base, for on the activities decided by the communities. This tool will allow to get a clear overview of what is done where, but in unfortunately not yet functional.